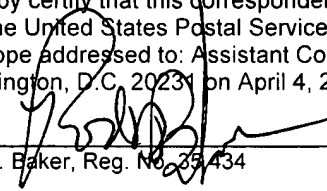




PATENT



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 4, 2002.

  
Rod D. Baker, Reg. No. 35,434

April 4, 2002  
(Date)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	WEBER, et al.	: Art Unit: 2877
Serial No.:	10/040,684	: Examiner: Unknown
Filed:	January 4, 2002	:
For:	OPTICAL PROBE FOR	:
	DETERMINING THE	:
	FAT/LEAN INTERFACE IN	:
	CUTS OF MEAT	:

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

### Box MISSING PARTS

**Commissioner for Patents**  
**Washington, D.C. 20231**

S I R :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

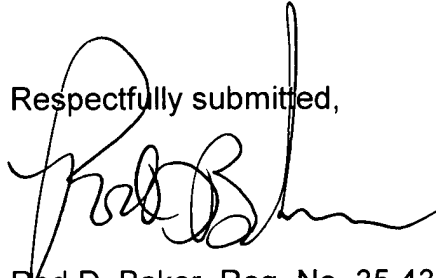
Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application and prior to the mailing date of a first Office action. Therefore, no fee or certification is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Dated: April 4, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod D. Baker", written over the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Rod D. Baker, Reg. No. 35,434  
Direct line: (505) 998-1504

Enclosures: PTO Forms 1449;  
Copy of References

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)			<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>		
			Application Number	10/040,684	
			Filing Date	January 4, 2002	
			First Named Inventor	WEBER et al.	
			Group Art Unit	2877	
			Examiner Name		
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	SD-6737

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		4,078,313		J. B. Hennessy	03/14/1978	
		4,209,878		H.C. Albert	07/01/1980	
		4,246,837		B.R. Chenery	01/27/1981	
		4,825,711		N.J. Jensen	05/02/1989	
		6,088,114		R.J. Richmond, et al.	07/11/2000	
		6,277,019		B.M. Veldkamp, et al.	08/21/2001	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Name of Patentee of Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

[F:\ANNETTE\SD6737-1449p1.PTO.doc]

1. Unique citation designation number. 2. See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. 3. Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4. For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box



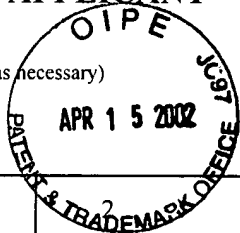
PTO/SB/08B (10-96)

Approved for use through 10-31-99. OMB 0651-003

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			Application Number	10/040,684	
			Filing Date	January 4, 2002	
			First Named Inventor	WEBER, et al.	
			Group Art Unit	2877	
			Examiner Name		
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	SD-6737



OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T <sup>2</sup>
		SWATLAND, H.J., "Effect of Connective Tissue on the Shape of Reflectance Spectra Obtained with a Fibre-Optic Fat-Depth Probe in Beef," <i>Meat Science</i> , Vol. 57, pp 209-213 (2001)	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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